The War Years

In November of 1941, Irwin T. Bode had officially completed four years as director. He brought this fact up at the January, 1942, Commission meeting and was given a vote of confidence and reappointed for another four-year term, with his salary increased to $7,000 per year.

The twin duties as director for the Conservation Commission and member of the State Park Board were apparently beginning to wear on Bode, and he talked to the Commission about this. The Commission asked Judge Fred L. Williams of St. Louis to render an opinion on whether the Commission could prohibit Bode from serving on the State Park Board (composed of Bode, the Governor and the Attorney General), if it found those duties could interfere with his services to it. It also asked if Bode could legally serve as both member of the Park Board and director of activities in the capacity of executive officer of the Park Board.

In March, Judge Williams rendered an opinion that Bode could legally serve on the Park Board and as executive officer for it, but that the Commission could prevent him from serving on the Park Board if it wanted to do so. Apparently the Commission did not think it politic to forbid Bode to serve, for the matter was dropped. Bode continued to serve on the Park Board until it was reorganized in 1953, although the Chief of Parks gradually took over the functions of executive officer, relieving Bode of the burdens of that office.

In May, 1942, the Park Board moved out of the Monroe Building quarters it shared with the Department, further severing the ties that bound the two agencies.

The Commission appointed Edwin A. Mayes chief of the Engineering, Acquisition and Construction Section, and Montie Glover chief of the Budgets and Accounts Section full-time. Both had previously split their duties with the Park Board. Later that year Mayes was demoted to a position of senior technician, statistician, when Bode became displeased with his administrative ability; William M. Hill took over his job as section chief. Mayes later entered the armed services and Bode recommended that his job not be refilled but that it be replaced with a new position, coordinator of wartime activities, which was filled by Field Service Agent Jay B. Morrow.

The Department had been losing personnel to the armed services beginning in 1940, which necessitated some hirings and transfers. Joseph Jaeger Jr. was hired as a forester to replace one of the first four foresters, Edward J. Seay. Seay did not return to the Department after his military service. Jaeger later became the director of Parks. Conservation Agent Dorris Frazier was promoted to the Education Section, replacing Everett F. Evans. Frazier continued in the Education Section until his retirement in 1968.

Lookout Towerman Paul G. Brooks Sr. replaced Frazier as conservation agent. Brooks eventually rose to chief of the Protection Division. Another lookout towerman, hired in 1942, was Herschel P. Woody Bledsoe, who later served as operator of the Showboat, and eventually fought forest fires with a guitar as Woody the Singing Forester, in the Information Section.

Robert F. Wells was hired as construction superintendent and Robert O. Danson as nurseryman at Meramec State Forest Nursery. Ellen Markward took over the Nature Knights program in Education.

The Department s two fisheries biologists—Dr. W. C. Frohne and Albert E. Weyer-left for wartime duties with the U. S. Public Health Service. Aden C. Bauman was employed to continue Frohne s stream surveys, and later became the chief fisheries biologist. Frohne never returned to the Department and Weyer did so only for a short time after the war.

As manpower shortages grew-the Department eventually had fifteen percent of its staff in the armed services-the criteria for hiring

replacements had to be lowered. All employment was considered temporary, and new employees were warned that they might later have to pass examinations to retain their jobs.[1]

An interesting wartime forester hired was Rufus S. Maddox, who shunned retirement to do his bit. Maddox was sixty-seven years old when he was hired as a farm forester; he was a graduate of the Yale Forestry School in 1907 with a master of forestry degree in 1909. He had been a professor of forestry in Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia and served with the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933 to 1942. He eventually retired from the Department in 1945 at the age of seventy.

Many activities had to be curtailed, as travel restrictions due to gasoline and tire shortages worsened. Conservation agents using horses for their enforcement patrols were voted $2.50 per day extra, but had to support their claims with receipts. Materials shortages halted construction projects in most cases. The State Fair and St. Louis Sports Show had exhibits, but both were canceled in 1943 and 1944. The Showboat managed 290 showings, however.

State Forester George O. White was appointed state coordinator of the Forest Fire Fighters Service in the Office of Civilian Defense. Many personnel were in various civil defense volunteer posts, in addition to their regular duties.

Employees volunteered for duties on local

In the days before four-wheel-drive vehicles many agents in the rougher back country used horses to patrol. Agent L. N. Elson, above, worked in the east-central part of the state.

defense councils, county war boards, the aircraft warning service, draft boards and county rationing boards, and as air raid wardens, auxiliary policemen, firemen and highway patrolmen, in the state guard, and as sellers of war bonds and stamps.

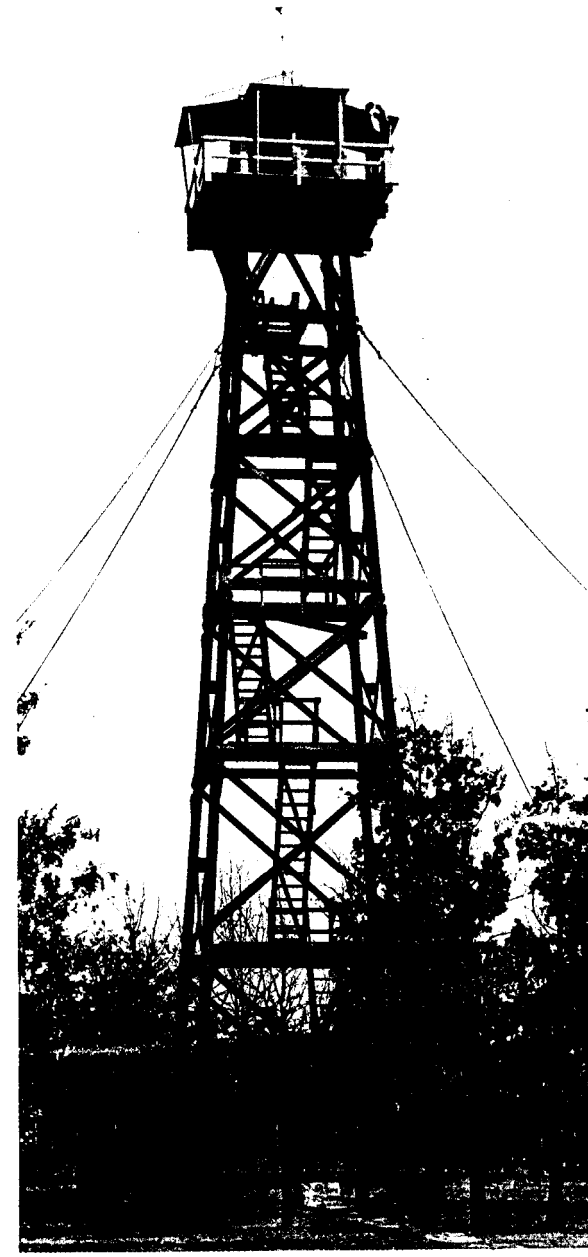
As a war mentality gripped the home front, the Commission changed all time references in the *Wildlife Code* to Central War Time. They declared forest fire lookout towers off limits to the public so saboteurs could not destroy them or use them for signaling. Later, they passed a regulation that forbid pursuing wildlife within 200 yards of Bagnell or Powersite dams at the request of the Federal Power Administration-again because of fear of saboteurs.

The Department began issuing bulletins under the general title of Wildlife Goes To War, covering such subjects as use of waterfowl feathers and down, rabbit fur, fats from furbearers, and wildlife as a renewable food resource. Down went into flying suits and sleeping bags. Fats were used to make glycerin for high explosives.

Although Bode had anticipated a drop in revenue with so many hunters and fishermen off in the armed services, revenues actually rose in 1942. At year s end there were 189 employees, 145 of whom were in the field, with forty-four headquartered in the Central Office. There were twenty-nine men in service.

By 1943 there were forty-seven employees in service, including two women employees, and the sale of licenses had declined by twelve percent. There was discussion of relaxing rules to exploit fish for war food, and this was actually done in a few instances. The annual report boasted of 25 million pounds of game and fish for food, and furs were touted as adding to the war effort.

Lumber production increased markedly as the state produced more lumber than any north-central or Great Lakes state. Much of



When a war mentality gripped the nation, the public was barred from lookout towers like the Kelleter Tower near Sullivan ***to prevent sabotage or covert signaling.***

1 I. T. Bode and Commissioner Owen Turnbull clashed over one returning serviceman. Bruce Lewis was discharged in 1943 and assigned to a different job than he held when he entered service. He protested privately to Turnbull, and when the commissioner expressed dissatisfaction with Bode on this at the August, 1943 meeting, Bode tendered his resignation, stating that if the Commission had lost faith and confidence in him, it was best for the program that he resign. Turnbull immediately moved to accept the resignation, but got no second. Sydney Stephens exercised all his charm to smooth over the situation, and Turnbull withdrew his motion.

Timber production increased to help meet demand for the war effort. A sizable elm, above, harvested from the Meramec River bottoms, could have gone for blocking, railroad ties *or crates. Missouri produced* more *lumber than any other north-central or Great Lakes state* during *the war.*

this production was walnut for gun stocks for the armed forces, but Missouri produced railroad ties, charcoal, hardwood lumber and dozens of other timber products for the war effort. Special forest fire protection was being given to Weldon Springs TNT Plant, Western Cartridge Storage Area, Fort Leonard Wood and Camp Crowder. An organization known as Teepee Weepee," the Timber Production War Project, was begun in August, 1943, under the direction of Milton G. Gus Hoyer of the U. S. Forest Service. Hoyer later was to become an assistant state forester with the Department.

By 1944 there were sixty-four employees in the armed services, including three women. Five federal aid project leaders were lost to the war and only three replacements could be found. Thus a number of projects were curtailed or suspended.

The Office of Price Administration, the federal agency charged with preventing scalping in scarce commodities, established the ceiling prices that could be charged for **hunting** ammunition (if you could find it):

Shotgun Shells	**Price Per Box**
12 gauge	$1.38
16 gauge	1.32
20 gauge	1.32

Rim Fire Cartridges	
.22 **Long Rifle, Regular**	.34
.22 Short, Regular	.21
Center Fire Cartridges	
.25-35 Winchester	1.41
.30-30 Winchester	1.46
.30 Remington	1.46
.300 Savage-Remington	1.85
.32 Winchester Special	1.46
.35 Remington	1.64
.270 Winchester	2.10

The plight of the sportsman in wartime was humorously depicted in a little essay that appeared in an April, 1944, issue of *Missouri Wildlife.*

Opening day we took our trusty fowling piece, our shotgun shell, and our dog and hied ourself to the golden fields of kingly sport. We nervously unwrapped the carefully hoarded shell and started to place it in our gun.

Just then a sinister looking individual stepped from behind a tree and thundered in our ear: Did you sign WPB special quota certificate No. 6 for that shotgun shell, allowed under paragraph (C) of supplementary limitation order L-286-A, stating that you were purchasing it for your own personal use for shooting predatory and destructive animals and birds only?

Before we could answer, another scowling gentleman stepped forth saying, I m from the Office of Price Administration. How and where did you get the gas to come out here?

Then a conservation agent approached and asked to see our permit and to check our gun to see if it was plugged for only three shots.

Just as we were offering him our gun, dog and car, the farmer bellowed, Get the h--- out of that field!

Things were rough for the poor sportsman.

Even in wartime prosaic things appeared on the scene. The Commission adopted an official insignia in 1942, the old hawthorn blossom. Shoulder patches were issued to each field man, two of which he was to be required to pay for. (This requirement was later rescinded.) Each patch had a cross bar beneath the hawthorn blossom with the section **or** division name on it.

The familiar hawthorn blossom insignia was adapted by an unknown artist to honor the state flower; it was replaced in 1970 by the triangular motif of fish, forestry and wildlife designed by Charles Schwartz.

The Commission created the Master Conservationist Awards late in 1941, and in 1942 set up the procedure for conferring them. A committee composed of former Commissioner John F. Case, J. T. Montgomery and Roland M. Hoerr of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, C. M. Tucker of the University of Missouri botany department and Dr. J. V. Brown of Kansas City was asked to suggest people eligible for the awards.

The Mississippi Valley Trust Company offered to underwrite the awards up to $200 annually, but the Commission declined this offer.

In July, 1942, the awards committee came up with twenty-seven nominations. The chief of the Education Section was given the task of administering the program, with Protection Chief Asbury Roberts investigating the nominees. The committee finally settled on four people to receive the award. Awards were presented at the State Fair in Sedalia to Edward K. Love of St. Louis, Eugene M. Poirot of Golden City, Rev. George J. Hildner of Villa Ridge and Harry A. Plattner of Malta Bend.

Poirot and Plattner were farmers who used their lands to demonstrate advanced

conservation farming methods. Rev. Hildner was a Catholic priest who preached conservation to his parishioners and was active in soil erosion control work. Edward K. Love was a St. Louis philanthropist who created the Love Fellowships in Conservation at the University of Missouri.

In 1943 the award was given to six people: Dorris D. Brown of Warrenton; Morton Tuttle, Prairie Home; Roland M. Hoerr, St. Louis, (the man who first started the ball rolling toward a non-political commission); Eugene M. Hills, Cameron; E. J. Evens, Amsterdam; and posthumously to Uncle Mon, James T. Montgomery of Sedalia, the man who broadened the Federation s view beyond hunting and fishing.

In 1944, Robert A. Langenbacher of St. Charles, Robert F. Redmond of Carthage, and Wayne Short of St. Louis were named Master Conservationists. The following year saw Ted Butler, Springfield, John Case, Savannah, and Allen McReynolds of Carthage honored.

B. K. Leach, president of the Egyptian Tie and Timber Company, raised turkeys as a sideline by penning semi-wild hens in the woods where they could be bred by wild gobblers. The offspring were bought by the Department and experimentally stocked in various areas. Some 500 were stocked in 1942 and 1943, but the greatest reliance was placed on stockings with native wild birds that were live-trapped and released.

One important wildlife research project begun during the war year of 1942 was the establishment of two quail study areas between Columbia and Jefferson City. One area received regular stockings with pen-reared quail, and the other area, one and one-half miles away, was monitored only for its quail population. The intent was to determine the value of stocking pen-reared quail. At the end of the study three years later, it was found that the area that did not receive quail stockings had as many or more quail than the area which was stocked. Only two banded,

Recipients of Master Conservationist Awards posing with the Commission and Director Bode ***in 1942 were, left to right, Commissioner Sydney Stephens, Edward K. Love, Commissioner Owen Turnbull, Rev.*** George ***Hildner, Commissioner John Case,*** Eugene Poirot, A. P. ***Greensfelder,*** Harry Plattner ***and Bode.***

stocked quail were killed in three years.

In July, 1941, Governor Forrest C. Donnell reappointed Stephens to the Commission for a six-year term and Owen Turnbull of Troy was appointed to replace Wilbur Buford, whose term had expired. in 1943, Donnell appointed Edward K. Love of St. Louis to the Commission, to replace A. P. Greensfelder, who was the first commissioner to serve a full six-year term. In 1945, Governor Phil M. Donnelly appointed Robert A. Brown of St. Joseph to replace Glen E. Stoner.

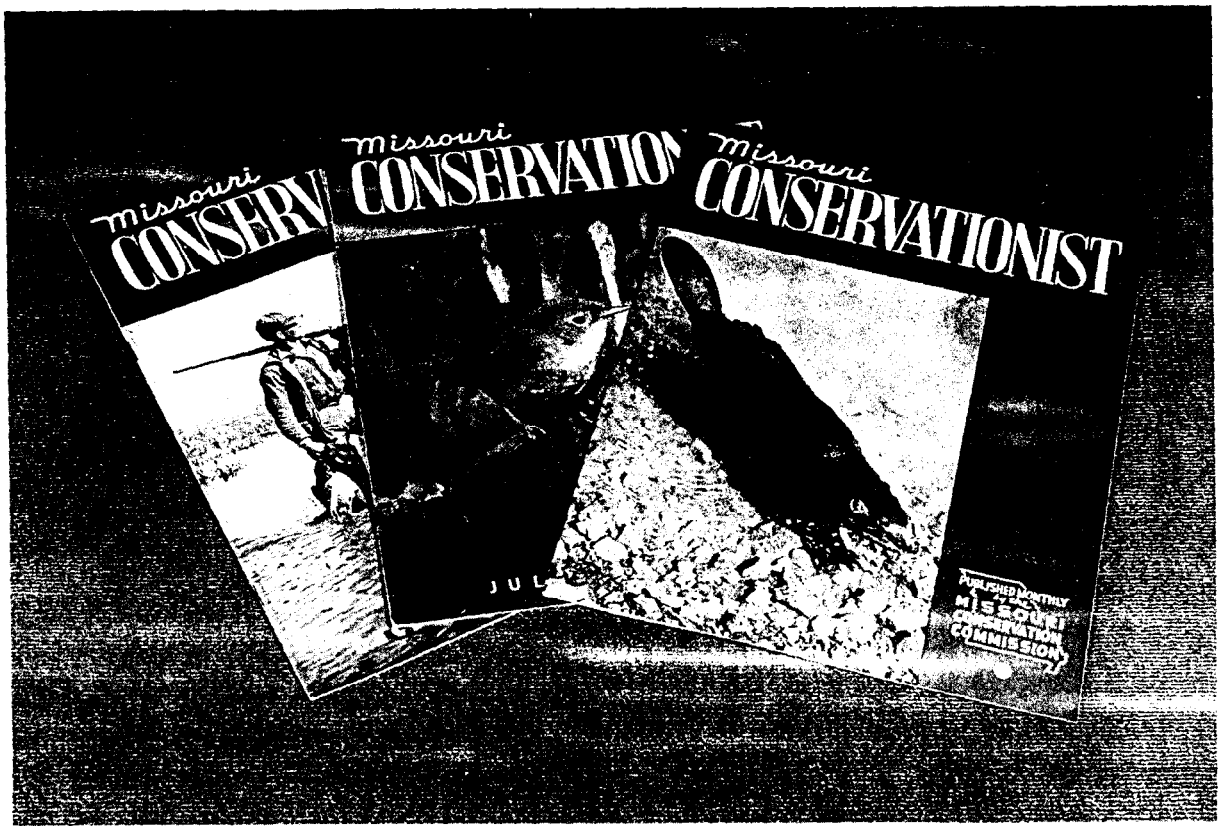
Owen Turnbull was an auto dealer and vice-president of the Midwest Fox Hunters Association. As a commissioner he was in a hot spot, because at this time farmers were claiming that foxes were too numerous and demanding they be killed off. For a fox hunter there are never enough foxes. The Commission was in almost continual hot water between the farmers and the fox hunters.

The staff recommended the daily twenty-five cents trout fishing fee in the state parks be raised to fifty cents, but the Commission refused to do so. It did authorize the use of a siren at the parks to announce the fishing hours. Bode also wanted a single hunting, fishing and trapping permit for $1.50, but the Commission "did not want to impose any changes of this kind during the existing emergency."

The Commission was concerned about public feelings relative to its programs. In May, 1942, it called a meeting of its four field service agents, six district supervisors, Asbury Roberts and Arthur L. Clark to ask their opinion as to how the public perceived Department programs. Their general feeling was that the public was favorable, that wildlife was increasing and that the Department was being credited with the progress.

Keeping tabs on the public got a jolt in 1942, when the state auditor refused to honor bills for a clipping service or subscriptions to newspapers.

Bode wanted to establish a single permit for fishing, hunting and trapping for $1.50, but the Commission declined to adopt changes during the war. Missourians escaped the strife abroad by finding peace on a farm pond.



Reader support allowed the Conservationist *to publish monthly in magazine format in 1943. Attempts to charge for the subscriptions were short-lived-the magazine has remained* free *to residents ever* since.

In April, 1943, the Conservationist magazine appeared for the first time in magazine format. It had a circulation of 10,000 with its first issue.

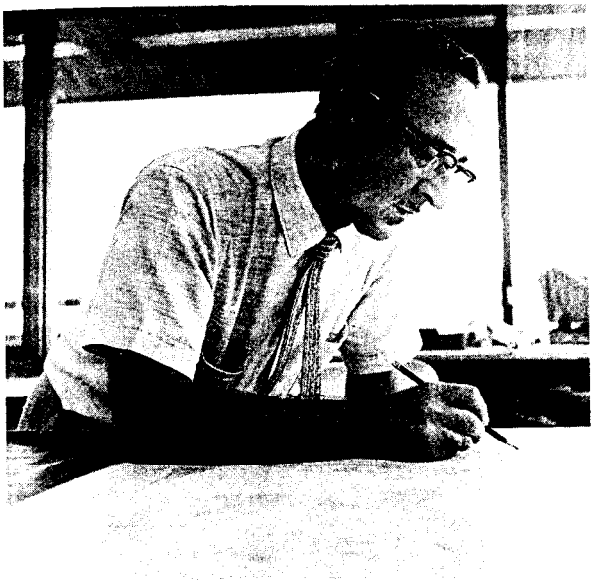
Staff Writer Dickson Terry, who went on to a career with the St. *Louis* Post-Dispatch, resigned in August, 1942, and Charles H. Callison was promoted to replace him. Callison served as Information chief when Harold Clover went into the armed forces. He later resigned to work as executive secretary for the Conservation Federation, and went on from there to a distinguished career with the National Wildlife Federation and National Audubon Society, In 1953, he was commissioned to write a history of the campaign that brought the non-political Conservation Commission into being. This was the book *Man and Wildlife in Missouri.*

Paul Q. Tulenko became state project leader with the resignation of Lisle Jeffrey in 1943. In the same year, the biologists studied how run-off was contained by small lakes in comparison to large lakes proposed for the Meramec River Basin. This study was completed in 1944, along with the soil survey of the state begun by Arthur Hugh Denney in 1939.

In October, 1943, the Commission conducted a public meeting in St. Louis to investigate charges against Bode and Clark brought by some disgruntled sportsmen. The Commission completely exonerated both men of any wrong-doing.

That same year the first ten-year service awards were made to eighteen men, all holdovers from the old Fish and Game Department.

The death of Fish, Game and Forestry Chief Arthur Clark in 1944 marked the end of an era. He had gone to North Dakota to pheasant hunt at the invitation of Melvin O.



Paul Q. Tulenko began his career with *the Department* in *1940. He became Game* chief *in 1946, and held posts as federal aid coordinator and landscape architect.*

Steen, who was U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional inspector for Pittman-Robertson projects. The hunt was to be Clark's first real vacation since his employment with the Department in 1938. Nash Buckingham, outdoor writer from Tennessee, was in the party and wrote about Clark's death in his book *Game Bag.*

Clark had a cold when he arrived in Bismarck and visited an ear, nose and throat specialist the day before the opening of pheasant season. But the next day, September 20, 1944, he had difficulty getting his breath on several drives, and stayed in the car for a time.

That afternoon he got tired of being left out and joined Buckingham and two others on a pheasant drive. Nash described what came next:

"We three tramped a couple of hundred yards up a slight, sagey slope to gain the [wheat] patch. Harold [Siebens] swung to its left side. Arthur and I, thirty feet apart,

Melvin 0. Steen, left, became chief *of* Fish, *Game and Forestry after the death of Arthur Clark. In this 1940 photo, Steen converses* with *A. Hugh Denney, one of the-first biologists hired by the Department.*

stepped off across a low wire fence to take our stations and space up the drive correctly.

"As I paused at the corner, Arthur had just cleared the barrier. 'Buck,' he called, and smiled at me when I turned around. 'This is certainly a pretty place for pheasants.'

"'It sure is, Art.' I replied, and turned to study the exquisitely sun-tinted rim of a distant moraine. I'll never know what vague premonition drew me to glance sharply around-but I did, and Arthur Clark was not there-just to my left at field's edge. Perhaps what startled me, for my hearing is not as keen as of old, might have been the clatter of his falling gun. I leaped past the view and saw him stretched face downward in the clipped wheat stubble.

"Kneeling swiftly and shouting for Siebens, I lifted Arthur and caught him into my arms. The sharp, stiff stubble-brush had scratched and bloodied his left cheek. But on his face there was only an uncontorted, peaceful half-smile. And when he sighed faintly and relaxed, I knew, somehow, that the end had come with beneficent swiftness and mercy."

State Project Leader Paul Q. Tulenko, Biologist Bill T. Crawford, Acting Field Service Chief James D. Beets, and professor Rudolf Bennitt went to Bismarck to take charge of the body. Clark was estranged from his wife and when the family was contacted, it was learned that in his will he had ordered that his remains be cremated and strewn in the Missouri River.

James D. Beets took the body to Minneapolis, site of the nearest crematorium, then returned to Bismarck with a cardboard box containing the remains. The small party took the box to the location of the present Garrison Dam and consigned the ashes to the river. As Crawford put it, "Just a bunch of the boys taking care of their boss." None of Clark's family appeared.

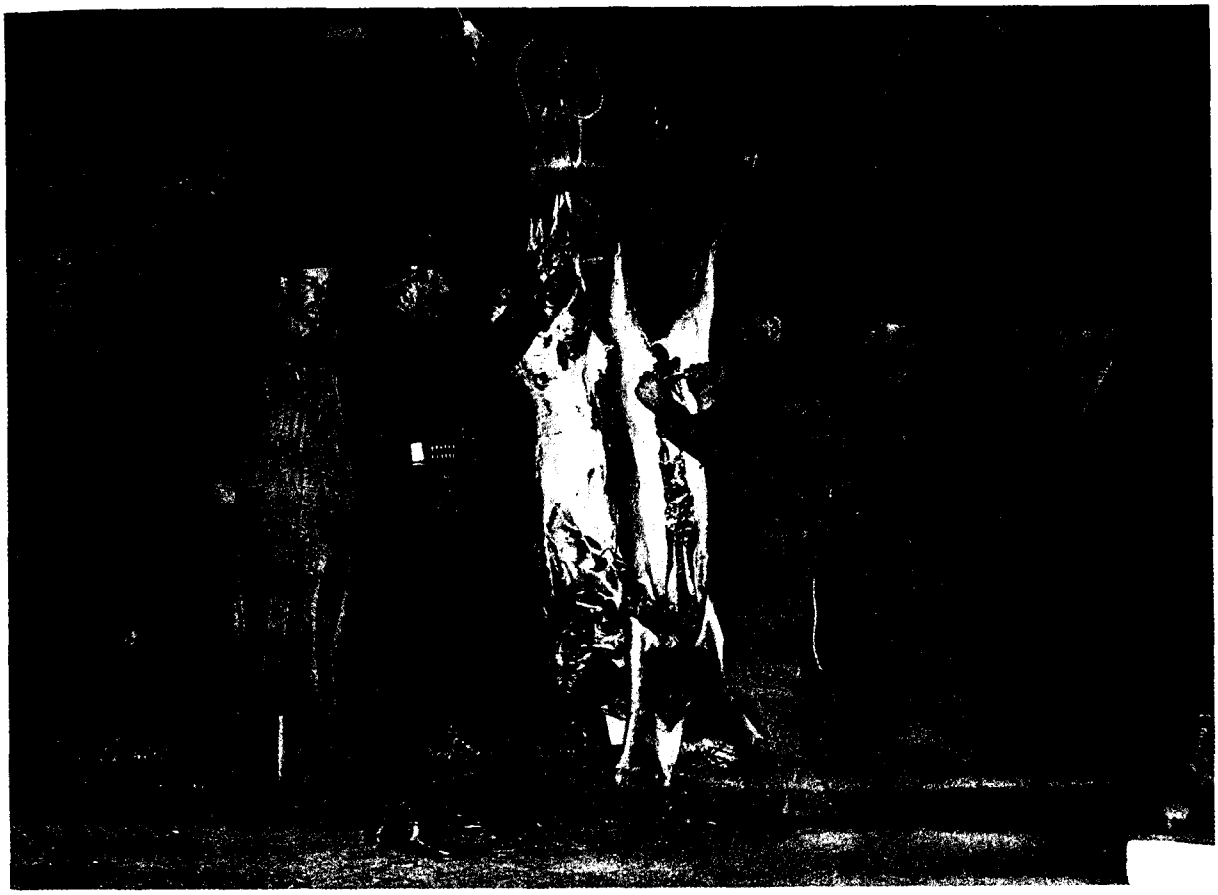
Oddly enough, it was hunting companion Melvin 0. Steen who took Clark's job. Steen, a North Dakotan by birth, had been educated at Concordia College and joined the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (then the Bureau of Biological Survey) in 1934. He had been involved in early pheasant stocking work in the Dakotas and was looked upon as an expert on pheasants. He had been a regional inspector with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1939 and knew Missouri well. He applied for and got Clark's former position in December, 1944.

Arthur Clark was an editor and Fish *and* Game *commissioner of Connecticut before accepting a job* with *the Department in* 1938. He *died* while *pheas*ant hunting in 1944.

In 1944, the first deer season in seven years was held on November 4 and 5 in seventeen counties. An estimated 613 deer were killed by 7,557 licensed hunters, including what was claimed to be the first bow-and-arrow kill in modern times, in Dent County.[2]

The next year some 11,191 licensed deer hunters bagged 882 legal deer in a three-day season. The deer restoration program was beginning to pay off in recreation.

A commercial fisherman named Benton Masters was hired to remove rough fish by commercial fishing methods from Lake of the Ozarks in an experiment aimed at improving sport fishing.



The dawn of the modern deer season occurred in 1944 with the first hunting season in seven years. L. N. Pop Elson, above, stamps a deer carcass during hunting season in Gasconade County.

Another experiment involved predator control, to take some of the heat off the Commission caused by farmers protesting foxes and coyotes. Herman Dulworth, who had six "wolf dogs," was employed to cut down on coyote populations. He managed to kill thirteen coyotes in nine counties before the project was abandoned in 1945.

In that year the extension trapper program began as a cooperative endeavor of the Department, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Agricultural Extension Service. It was the beginning of what came to be known as the "Missouri system" of predator control, where farmers were trained in an extension-type program to trap the individual predator causing the problem, rather than warring on the species.

Despite the war, farm pond building continued to increase and the first farm pond studies were begun in areas like fertilizing, fish stocking combinations, forage species and bait minnow production.

Also in 1944, the field service agents were formed into a section assigned to the Administrative Division, with Jay B. Morrow as chief. In December of that year Forestry was split away from Fish and Game Division

[2] Retired Field Service Agent Paul Jeffries who, perhaps more than any other single person championed bowhunting in Missouri, claims that the deer actually had been shot with a .22 caliber rifle and was given to a group of archers to pass off as an archery kill. It wasn't until 1952, when Jack Compton of Ferguson killed a small buck on the Cletus McClanahan farm in Ste. Genevieve County, that a completely authenticated archery deer kill was recorded.

A predator control *system* attempted in 1944 involved *Herman 0. Dulworth, left, and his "wolf" dogs. Field Service Agent Gilbert Maschmann, right, helps carry one of Dulworth s coyote catches.*

and given divisional status, with fifty-three full-time employees. That same year two-way radios began to be used by Forestry personnel.

In 1944 the attention of both the Conservation Commission and the Federation was focused on the Constitutional Convention and its possible effects on the non-political Department. Two proposals to change the Conservation Commission were especially worrisome.

Proposal No. 145, introduced by Omer E. Brown and Oliver D. Downes, would have done away with the four-man commission, replacing it with a single commissioner elected by popular vote with no reference to political party. The commissioner would hire a director and other employees, who would be equally divided between the two major political parties. Seasons and other matters would be enacted by the legislature.

Proposal No. 200, introduced by Clyde C. Cope, would increase commissioners to six, whose terms of office would be regulated by law. The Supreme Court was given powers to determine the "reasonableness" and "lawfulness" of all rules and to make necessary orders requiring obedience to the decisions of the Court in relation thereto. The legislature would fix the terms of commissioners, and the governor could remove any commissioner.

Both these amendments were so full of holes that neither really stood much chance of passing the constitutional convention committee or the voters, but the Conservation Federation always believed in running scared.

The Federation lobbied effectively and all the proposals that would have changed the Commission in any way were beaten back. When the 1945 Constitution was passed, its provisions for the Conservation Commission were exactly as passed by the voters in 1936.

By 1945 there were sixty-nine people in the armed forces3 and hunting and fishing permit sales had risen nineteen percent. The Commission repealed its restriction on fishing within 200 yards of a dam and reduced it to seventy-five yards. Forest fire losses, which had a twenty-two percent reduction in 1944, rose as people began returning from the war. Forest fires burned 58,000 acres in 1944, and in 1945 the amount grew to 81,000 acres. The woods had missed the firebugs. One forester opined that perhaps the drop in fire losses during the war only reflected a decline in reporting fires because of the manpower shortage.

The State Fair resumed in 1945 and the Conservation Department presented a new exhibit.

As the war ended in 1945, the Commission ordered the staff to step up a lake development program to create more fishing water. It was determined that stream improvement was too difficult a task for the Department, but creation of new fishing waters near where people lived was a worthy endeavor. The freeing up of men and materials would allow new lakes to be built. The Development Section was transferred from Forestry Division to the Fish and Game Division as part of the

3 Eventually, seventy-one regular employees entered the armed forces.

Forest fire losses declined by twenty-two percent during the war, only to rise again when populations returned to civilian life.

lake construction program.

Both the Commission and staff looked forward to progress in conservation in the post-war years. While the Department had not been inactive during the war, it had held back on many programs that it was now eager to accomplish.

As I. T. Bode wrote: "It was time for appraisal of the job ahead, and for planning for the impact on wildlife resources when travel restrictions are lifted, ammunition and tackle again are unlimited, and service men and women come home and go hunting and fishing."

Charles Coatney was involved in *deer* trapping *in 1943, when this photo recorded* him *at* Caney Mountain *with a catch of another sort, a red wolf* (Canis rufus).